

# TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE

## STORM WATER UTILITY FEE



### Merrillville Stormwater Utility

7404 Broadway  
Merrillville, Indiana 46410  
(219) 472-8668

[http://www.merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater\\_management](http://www.merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater_management)

## Flat Fees Based on Property Code

100-199 Agricultural	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month Greater than 20 acres = \$.125 per acres
300 Industrial Vacant Land	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month Greater than 20 acres = \$.125 per acres
330-399 Industrial	\$35.00
400 Commercial Vacant Land	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month Greater than 20 acres = \$.125 per acres
401 Commercial Apartment 4-19 Units	\$15.00
402 - 499 All commercial including apartment buildings over 19 units	\$35.00
500-509 Residential Vacant Land	.25 acres or less = No Charge .251 acres to 20 acres = \$2.50 Greater than 20 acres = \$.125 per acres
510 - 545 - Residential Single Family, Duplex and Three Unit including excess acreage	\$5.00
550 - Residential Condo	\$5.00
599 Other Residential Structure	\$5.00
650 - Board of Education	\$15.00
600, 610, 620, 621, 622, 630, 640, 645, 660, 661, 662, 665, 669	State, county, municipal and other exempt properties are not charged.
670 - Exempt private academy / college	\$15.00
680, 685, 686 Charitable, religious and churches	\$15.00
690 - Cemetery	6.66 acres or less = \$2.50 per month Greater than 6.66 acres = \$.375 per acres.
699 Other Exempt Properties	\$0.00
820 - Heat and Power Utilities	\$35.00
821 - State Assessed LHP	\$25.00
830 - 841 - Railroad and Pipeline	20 acres or less = \$2.50 per month Greater than 20 acres = \$.125 per acres
850-871 Sewage, Phone and water utilities	\$35.00

The legal documents to support this unfunded mandate are:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Phase II of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System program (FR Doc. 99-29181) authorized by the 1972 amendments to the Clean Water Act
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management - Rule 13 (327 IAC 15-13)





## How the Rates were Developed

Local storm water user fees were established through Ordinance # 08-39. Each parcel is assessed and billed a flat monthly fee based on the property class code. Select property class codes are assessed by acreage. Table 1 of this brochure shows the user fee structure. All non-vacant residential parcels (510-599) are billed a \$5.00/month user fee. Although there is a monthly assessment, you will not be mailed a monthly bill. Instead, billing is circulated on the Lake County Treasurer's Property Tax Bill and is due on the same date.

## Benefits

Revenue generated from the storm water user fee will improve the Town in some of the following ways:

- **SUPPLEMENT ROADWAY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT**
- **PROVIDE LONG TERM MAINTENANCE FOR EXISTING STORM WATER DETENTION**
- **MINIMIZE OFF-SITE SEDIMENT FROM CONSTRUCTION SITES**
- **PROVIDE EDUCATION TO THE RESIDENTS ON WATER QUALITY**
- **ROUTINE TESTING OF STORM WATER OUTFALLS**
- **ENFORCE ILLICIT DISCHARGES INTO WATERWAYS**
- **SHORELINE AND DITCH BANK STABILIZATION**
- **REDUCE SEDIMENT INTO OUR WATERWAYS**
- **FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT**
- **REDUCE FLOODING**
- **WETLAND PROTECTION**



## Background on Federal Unfunded Mandate

According to U.S. EPA, polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to the nearly 40 percent of surveyed U.S. water bodies which do not meet water quality standards. Over land or via storm sewer systems, polluted runoff is discharged, often untreated, directly into local water bodies. When left uncontrolled, this water pollution can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and aquatic life habitats; a loss in aesthetic value; and threats to public health due to contaminated food, drinking water supplies, and recreational waterways.

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the NPDES Storm water Program is a national program for addressing the non-point sources of storm water discharges. These discharges adversely affect the quality of our nation's waters. The program uses the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting to require the implementation of controls that are designed to prevent harmful pollutants being washed by storm water runoff into local water bodies.

Operators of regulated small MS4s (which includes the Town of Merrillville) are required to have permit coverage through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Under the Small MS4 Storm water Program, operators of regulated small MS4s are required to comply with 327IAC15-13 "Rule 13"

Without the funding to implement the requirements, small MS4s have to develop mechanisms to fulfill federally mandated objectives to treat storm water.